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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 'LEFTS' PROMISES? THE TUC SELLS OUT HOSPITAL WORKERS

BY ROYSTON BULL

**WITH THOUSANDS of hospital workers still bitterly holding out in their strike against the Tory government's pay laws, their union leaders have completely abandoned the battlefield in the middle of the fight.**

Prime responsibility for this capitulation to the Tories rests with the TUC General Council and particularly with the Communist Party which has consistently provided Hugh Scanlon and Jack Jones with a 'left' cover while these gentlemen avoided carrying out TUC policy.

Their do-nothing tactics virtually invited the Tory government to move in and destroy the hospital workers' resistance, just as the postmen were defeated two years ago through the TUC's inactivity.

So what did the March 5 special TUC Congress decision to co-ordinate action in support of those unions in struggle against the Phase Two laws mean?

It meant nothing but a piece of left phrasemongering which Jones, Scanlon, and Feather were pleased to be able to forget about as soon as they were out of that spotlight.

And what use were all the fine words of Hugh Scanlon, who said that if the gasworkers and hospital workers were allowed to go down to defeat, it would mean the end of trade unionism as we know it? They were of no use except to allow Scanlon to continue the pretence of being a 'left'.

Totally implicated in this refusal of the TUC leaders to carry out Congress policy and come to the aid of the hospital workers are the leaders of the hospital workers themselves.

Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), the largest union involved, and colleague of Scanlon and Jones on TUC leading committees, has all along defended Feather's do-nothing tactics.

In nearly seven weeks of hospital strikes and six weeks since the special Congress decision, the TUC has 'co-ordinated' not one single piece of industrial action, either for the hospital workers or for any other sections in struggle.

## CIRCULAR

Half a dozen top-level meetings were held with the alleged purpose of implementing the March 5 policy.

All that resulted was a circular to trades councils asking them to organize demonstrations in support of the hospital workers and new appeals were sent to Health Minister Sir Keith Joseph and Prime Minister Edward Heath to look sympathetically on the hospital workers' 'special case'.

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This was to appeal yet again for special treatment and pledge the TUC to persuade all other

workers not to make a precedent any favour shown to the hospital workers.

This was tantamount to accepting Phase Two on behalf of the whole trade union movement and completely in violation of the special Congress decision.

After announcing the capitulation to the Tories on Sunday, Fisher said how pleased he was with the 'intervention and support they had had from the TUC on such a unique scale'.

The hospital workers have been forced to go cap in hand to the corporatist Pay Board by their own union leaders' miserable surrender.

## CONTEMPT

The Pay Board will treat their pleas with the arrogant contempt of a ruling class which has just kicked reformist union bureaucrats into submission.

Bernard Dix, NUPE research officer, tried to cover the rotten sell-out with the following nonsense:

'Going to the Pay Board will allow us to expose the Tories' pretensions of being in favour of the lower paid. We will be saying to the Tory government: put your money where your mouth is.'

The Pay Board is not a matter for joking.

## Brewery pay strike widens

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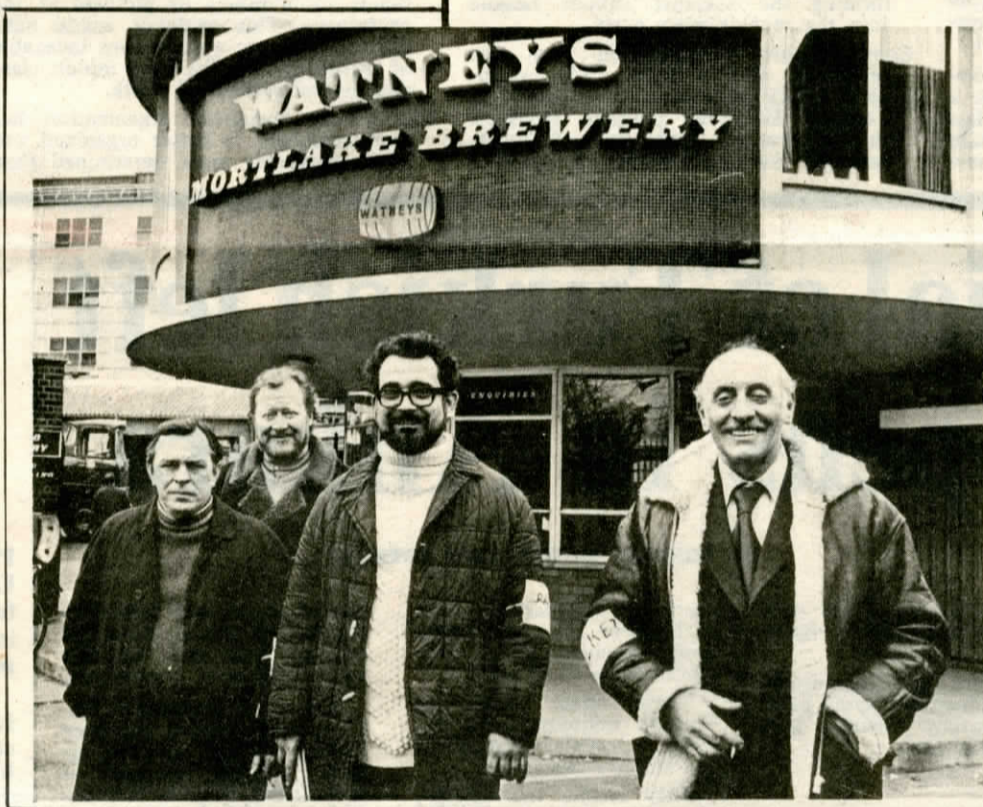
This brings the total number of brewery workers on strike in London to around 600. Senior shop stewards from the three breweries involved are to meet the company this morning to press their case.

The dispute centres on an agreement signed in the middle of last year covering the phasing out of guaranteed overtime and shift overlaps, and the ending of compensation pay for the change-over to shift work.

The agreement was that a working party would be set up to negotiate shift pay. Discussions on extra holidays were also promised.

But the company, the strikers say, dragged their feet on the working party and 'quietly forgot' about more holidays. When a £2.40 across-the-board payment was agreed on the shifts issue, Watney's referred it to the Pay Board.

Although the dispute appears to be a hangover from the breweries' 1971-1972 pay negotiations, the strikers fear the Pay Board reference means they will be able to claim no increase this year.



What is involved here is a wholesale retreat by the trade union bureaucracy which now puts the working class into a most perilous position.

The Tory government will now be emboldened into even more vicious attacks on the workers' standard of living and democratic rights.

## CRIMINAL

The Tories' intention is to introduce a fully-fledged corporate state into Britain. The silence of the Communist Party on the treacherous acts of the trade union 'lefts', who are opening the way for this development, is criminal.

The latest outburst from Jack Jones completes the picture:

'We think it is now time to beat the drum and make clear to the world that our British engineering and design is second to none and British workers are still among the best in the world.'

'Contrary to the black image

that some of our newspapers have given, over 95 per cent of British workers never take part in a strike, and are now playing their full part in increasing Britain's growth rate.

'We are standing four square with management in building a better Britain.'

This is the language of nationalistic class collaboration which will speed the establishment of the corporate state in Britain.

## CONGRESS

It will be a breeding ground for the most reactionary politics of trade war, followed by a shooting war, which the capitalist class will not hesitate to introduce to save its rotting system.

Jones, Scanlon, Feather and Fisher must be exposed. The special Congress must be recalled to make them account for their behaviour.

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The Fund now stands at £1,982—just £18 to go. If we receive this then a reader is ready to make the £2,000 donation. Post all donations to:

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# WORKERS PRESS

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# THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS FORGES AHEAD

THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS emerges from its 13th annual conference as the most decisive force in British politics. Its programme is the only answer that the working class can give to the Tories who are out to destroy every single basic right won over 200 years of struggle.

Young Socialists policies have nothing in common with the cowardice of the Labour Party leaders who refuse to lead the struggle to bring down this government.

They are also a complete rejection of Stalinism, the corrupt political force represented by the Soviet bureaucracy and the Communist Party who spread the lie that workers can co-exist peacefully with capitalism and the Tories.

The Young Socialists says that class compromise is impossible, capitalism is a doomed system and the working class will have to expropriate it and build socialism or face repressions and sav-

agery unequalled in the history of mankind.

That is why the YS rejects the 'pressure politics' of the protestors and calls on workers to bring down the Tories by mass political and industrial action. This has been the constant thread in YS campaigns since the election of the Heath administration in June 1970. But this year's Blackpool conference was the most important in the history of the movement.

Britain has now entered a pre-revolutionary era where the issue of power is raised in all struggles of the working class. The youth of the YS want to face the challenge of this epoch by transforming the Socialist Labour League into the revolutionary party.

Contrast this determination with the reformists and Stalinists. The engineers' policy committee is meeting in Torquay. Here the polished speakers, the reformists and the Stalinists gathered for one reason. To protect

their leader Hugh Scanlon, allow him to engage in new co-operation with the Tory government and lay the next stage of betrayal.

The Stalinists too had their conference. While the YS were in Blackpool, the Young Communist League met in Scarborough. They put forward a minimum programme of 'pressure' on the Tories. There was NO demand to bring the government down and NO attempts to expose the union leaders who are leading the working class into a vicious Tory trap.

The YCL has been reduced to a rump because of these reformist policies. In their newspaper the Stalinists gave no report on numbers or pictures at the conference. This evidence would have exposed them as a movement incapable of recruiting only the most middle-class and cynical section of youth.

The Young Socialists' organization has more members, is better organized and is immeasurably more determined than

the youth movements of Stalinism and the Labour Party. But these qualities come from the politics and history of the movement.

It is a direct descendant of the Bolshevik Party which led the Russian Revolution. It is a living continuation of the Bolsheviks, led by Trotsky, who gave their lives in the struggle against Stalin and the Stalinists who murdered a whole generation of revolutionary fighters.

The Young Socialists' movement defeated the Labour leadership, which eventually resorted to expulsion. The youth went forward to warn the working class of Labour betrayals during the Wilson era. It has led the fight against the Tories by demanding the TUC leadership organize a General Strike.

Now the greatest task of all lies before it—to draw on this past of principled struggle and build the Marxist revolutionary party to lead the working class to socialism.

# Mass trial of Turkish left opens in Ankara

BY FOREIGN EDITOR JOHN SPENCER

TURKEY'S biggest mass trial in the current wave of persecution against militants and left wingers opened yesterday when 256 people were brought before a military court in Istanbul.

The prosecution is seeking the death penalty for eight of the defendants who are being tried under martial law regulations as alleged members or supporters of the Turkish People's Liberation Army.

The TPLA has been subjected to rigorous persecution by the military regime

since it usurped power with American assistance in April 1971.

Members and supporters of the Liberation Army have been brutally tortured and several executed.

## DEATH

On December 23 last year, five members of the organization were sentenced to death by an Ankara court martial. Twenty-five others received long prison sentences from the same court.

A further two TPLA members were sentenced to

death on February 2, in a trial where 25 other defendants received prison sentences of up to 25 years.

These mass trials of Turkish militants have become a regular feature of the military repression.

They enable the military authorities to manufacture amalgams, in which genuine and avowed terrorists are brought to trial alongside trade unionists and militants opposed to terrorism.

Among the defendants in the current trial is a leading film director and actor, Yilmaz Guney, known as the 'Ugly King' for his tough-guy screen roles.

He faces a 15-year sentence on charges of aiding and abetting left-wing guerrillas. Also among the accused is Ertugrul Kurkcü, sole survivor of the Mahir Cayan cell which kidnapped and killed three NATO technicians last April.

The 559-page indictment, most of it drawn up under laws copied from the Italian fascist penal code of the 1930s, lists offences committed between 1969 and 1972.

They include the killing of Israeli consul-general Ephraim Elrom and the NATO technicians, three armed robberies, organizing the escape of political prisoners from a military prison and the killing of a taxi driver.

A total of 380 people, 37 of them women, are named in the indictment, but sentences will be asked for against only 256 of them.

Of the rest 11 have been

hunted down and killed by the armed forces, nine are still at large and the rest were freed after questioning.

The eight defendants facing a possible death sentence include Kurkcü and two air force officers accused of establishing a subversive organization inside the armed forces.

Charges against other defendants range from plotting the overthrow of constitutional government, armed robbery, murder and attempting to establish a one-class dictatorship.

All these charges would be better applied to the military regime itself, which forcibly overthrew the 1961 constitution, robbed the people of all democratic rights, murdered militants by the score—all in the interests of the ruling capitalist class.

## TIES

The trial will have the full support of the Tory government, whose Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home, has condemned critics of the Turkish government's brutal repressions. It will certainly not impair the growing ties between Istanbul and Moscow either.

The working-class movement must come to the aid of the Turkish militants now facing the military court. Resolutions of protest against the trial should be sent to the Turkish Embassy, 43 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

# Nixon plans European confrontation

PRESIDENT Nixon intends to visit western Europe in the autumn for a 'grand tour' confronting each of the main European leaders individually for talks on economic, trade and military relations.

It is assumed he will visit Britain, France, Italy and West Germany, among others. These countries, together with the rest of the Common Market, are the target for the trade war offensive now under way from the United States.

The Trade Bill on its way through Congress will empower the President to impose tariffs, quotas and any other form of protective trade barrier he chooses.

What is not so generally appreciated is that the Bill merely dots the i's on Nixon's existing powers.

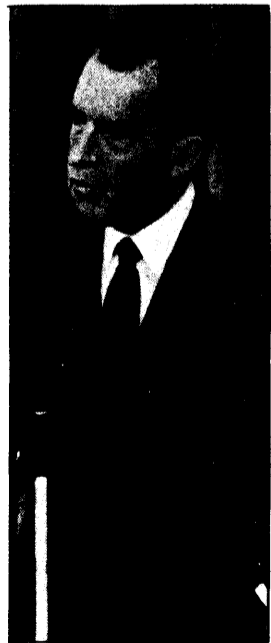
As he demonstrated in August 1971, he has all the powers he needs to carry on trade war against Europe.

He will not hesitate to use them if he thinks fit.

That is why the prospect of multilateral trade talks opening in Tokyo in the autumn is a frightening one for the European Common Market leaders.

Before Nixon visits Europe, he will have talks in Washington with various EEC leaders, including Italy's Giulio Andreotti, West Germany's Willy Brandt and the French president Georges Pompidou.

Another visitor to Washington before Nixon sets out for his trip to western Europe will be Soviet Com-



Communist Party leader Leonid Brezhnev.

He is due in Washington in June to return the visit Nixon made to Moscow last May.

The collaboration of the Stalinists in Europe is essential to the counter-revolutionary plans of American imperialism as it acts to load the full weight of economic crisis onto the backs of the European workers.

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## Actors' leaders suffer major rebuff at Special General Meeting

BY ROYSTON BULL

THE GENERAL Council of Actors' Equity suffered a major rebuff at a Special General Meeting (SGM) of the union when the members rejected an attempt to curtail their democratic rights.

The Council tried to restrict the right of members to call SGMs by a change of rule allowing an appeals board to veto such requisitions. The Council's motion failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority.

A wide cross-section of actors spoke out against the rule change, insisting that there was too little democracy as it was.

An overwhelming majority of the 1,200-strong meeting, which overflowed from the Adelphi Theatre to the Strand Theatre next door, had declared that an earlier SGM calling for the Council's resignation had been a 'necessary meeting'.

These two decisions amounted to a decisive repudiation of the General Council's conduct over the recent period. Although the motion calling for their resignation was lost—just short of 300 people voted for it—the discussion was overwhelmingly declared necessary. And the Council's attempt to strike back at those who called the SGM was thrown out.

The policies of Equity's leadership have been seriously called into question.

Criticizing the proposed rule change, Ian Milton attacked the Council for its divisive and unconstitutional tactics in trying to limit the rights of members, issuing a one-sided Press statement to summon the meeting, and not waiting until the annual meeting in a few weeks time to propose their rule change.

Geoffrey Collins said that events in the world-wide economic crisis were now moving so rapidly that it was essential to preserve the democratic right of members to call urgent SGMs.



Tom Kempinski speaking from the platform on Sunday.

## Basic right to union meetings is defended

'It is essential that minorities should be listened to at a time like this,' Collins went on, 'and it is wrong that three people on an appeals board can take away the right of 40 or more members to call an SGM to air their concern about our future.'

Catherine Parr said the SGM was one of the few opportunities for the membership to get together. 'We cannot have too much discussion. Any negation of democracy is a denial of free speech.'

Jonathan Hales said he had been against the first SGM motion calling for the Council's resignation, but he was very much against the rule change.

'Trade union executives must always be readily accountable to the membership for their actions,' he said.

The vote on the rule change was declared as 602 in favour, 490 against, with 28 abstentions, and so was lost, not being a two-thirds majority.

In the debate calling for the Council's resignation, Tom Kempinski repudiated a witch-hunting attack from André Morell on the Socialist Labour League and the Workers Press.

'Political affiliation is not the question. It is the failure of our union. We have put forward policies. These policies have not

been carried out.

'It is clear to all of us that things are going badly for the industry and for actors. We cannot keep theatres open unless we have a policy. We need a Council that acknowledges the dangers of the present situation, explains them, and works out policies with the membership to take the union forward.'

Corin Redgrave said that actors were turning to the union in this period of closing theatres, lost Arts Council grants, and wage cuts, but the General Council was telling them that the union could not use its collective strength because of the Tory government's new laws.

Speaking for the Council, Trevor Baxter said the Tory pay laws could not be fought because shows might be surcharged £400 each performance in fines and so lead to more closures. And other unions were not fighting Phase Two.

The motion: 'Driven by the world crisis of inflation, the Tory government has launched a determined attack on the democratic rights of every trade unionist in this country. First it has sought to destroy free trade unions with its Industrial Relations Act.'

'Now it has introduced state control of wages, under which law, Equity became the first union to receive a wage cut.'

'The Council has put forward no policies to fight these attacks and now actually stops the members from taking up this fight by ignoring their democratic decisions.'

'Last year's AGM resolution calling for a fight to defeat the Industrial Relations Act in its entirety was ignored; and now a resolution, voted for at an official mass meeting on January 28 calling for strike action to win the full West End claim, immediate wage increases for all members, no wage-cuts, no state control of wages, de-registration under the Industrial Relations Act, and a fight with the whole trade union movement to force the Tories to resign, and elect a Labour government pledged to repeal all anti-union legislation; this also has been ignored.'

'We have therefore no alternative but to instruct this Council to resign, and to call for an immediate election, so that the membership may elect an alternative leadership, responsible and answerable to the decisions of the members.'

The motion was declared lost by 293 votes to 1,119.

## 'No politics' move by NUT executive

THE NATIONAL Union of Teachers' executive is to try to stop militant teachers involving the union in direct political confrontation with the Tory government.

During the recent campaign for a rise in teachers' special London allowance some NUT associations sought to link their struggle to those of other groups of workers fighting the Tory pay laws.

The executive will ask its annual conference at Scarborough next weekend to approve that none of the union's 680 branches or individual members shall engage in strikes or industrial action without official backing.

The Communist Party-led executive is pushing the view that the NUT must remain, as it always has been, a non-political organization.

The executive is still considering disciplinary action against militants who led a rebellion

against it at a meeting at Westminster Central Halls earlier this year.

The militants were seeking joint action with hospital and gas workers.

Union leaders quashed an attempt by officers of the Westminster branch to get the help of local members to support a similar call from the London Trades Council.

The executive has opted out of the TUC's day of protest against the Tory pay laws on May 1.

The executive said after their weekend meeting that the union's two main aims were to work for improving the status of the teaching profession and for the advancement of the education system in the interests of children.

An NUT spokesman explained that the change was being made because 'no union wants a position where individual members call a strike whenever they like'.

## New party for Ulster poll? MacStiofain freed

A NEW political grouping made up of nationalists, Republicans and other minority groups may emerge later this month to challenge the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Labour Party in the elections to district councils and the new Ulster Assembly.

Westminster MPs Bernadette Devlin and Frank McManus and both wings of Sinn Fein have been present at meetings, the latest of which was held at Omagh at the weekend.

Former IRA chief of staff Sean MacStiofain was released from Curragh Camp yesterday after serving two thirds of his six-month sentence for membership of an illegal organization.

Reports say he plans to seek immediate medical treatment and that this could delay his re-

appearance in the leadership of the Provisionals. He told reporters:

'I remain an unrepentant Republican separatist.'

Looking pale and drawn from his 59-day hunger strike, he refused to comment on his position within the Provisional movement.

On his release MacStiofain told reporters:

'I would like to see an end to the fighting. Everyone in Ireland wants peace, but Republicans want peace that is going to last.'

'A lasting peace will come when the British government accepts the terms that were put to them last summer — the right of the Irish people to determine their own destiny, amnesty for political prisoners and the withdrawal of troops.'

YOUNG SOCIALISTS AND SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

# MAY DAY

DEMONSTRATE TUES. MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>



DEFEND BASIC DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Watch this space for more details



# TORIES' IRELAND BILL ABOLISHES ALL LEGAL RIGHTS

The Tories' Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill receives its key Second Reading in the House of Commons tonight.

The Bill abolishes jury trial, restricts the granting of bail, allows the admission of evidence obtained by threats and inducements and gives the army and police much wider powers of arrest and search than they have even at present.

It also bans a number of political organizations and smoothes the authorities' path towards the detention of suspected 'terrorists'.

In effect, what the Tories are attempting to do is legislate the Draconian recommendations of the Diplock Commission published last December.

Any Labour MP who votes for these proposals is handing the Tories a dangerous weapon which will later be imported to Britain.

For scheduled offences, Clause One of the Bill abolishes jury trial.

The scheduled offences are all serious crimes carrying heavy sentences, which makes

the abolition of jury trial doubly disturbing.

No clear case to support abolition was made out by Diplock.

The report admitted: 'We have not had our attention drawn to complaints of convictions that were plainly perverse, and complaints of acquittals which were plainly perverse are rare.'

But it went on to state ominously: 'The jury system as a means for trying terrorist crime is under strain.'

## 'UNRELIABLE' JURIES

In the same week as the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill was published, the Tories' Ulster supremo, William Whitelaw, claimed unprecedented success for the security forces in detecting, prosecuting and convicting 'terrorists'.

No evidence has been produced of the intimidation of jurors. The question, therefore, is raised: why abolish jury trial?

The National Council for Civil Liberties, which is asking

**Above: An army search for weapons in Belfast. Under the Tory law which will put the onus on the accused to prove his innocence, the practice of 'planting' evidence on chosen victims by the army and police is sure to increase.**

MPs to vote against the Bill, says: 'Allegations that the judiciary is overtly political and a creature of the executive are already rife.'

'There is an increasingly alarming tendency for the judiciary to identify with the needs of the executive. The jury system is an essential safeguard against judicial partiality and we can only conclude that Diplock's recommendation to abolish trial by jury is clearly based on the "unreliability" of juries to produce convictions.'

Stripped of its reformist verbiage, this is a very serious charge indeed against the proposed Tory law.

This is the blueprint for the kind of repressive law the Tory corporatists would like to introduce, under cover of a giant witch-hunt against 'militants', in Britain as a whole.

The effect of Clause Two of the Bill is to completely reverse the so-called 'principle

of British law that a man is innocent until proved guilty.

It presumes the guilt of a man immediately he is arrested, and sets out stringent conditions on which a judge must be satisfied before the granting of bail.

The Diplock Commission criticized the Northern Ireland courts for 'freely and indiscriminately' granting bail in comparison with English courts. But no evidence was produced of commission of further offences or of intimidation of witnesses by accused persons on bail.

Clause Two relies for its justification on such unsubstantiated assertions, including the alleged 'serious effect on the morale of the troops to see a known terrorist at liberty on bail'—note the use of the phrase 'known terrorist' about men who have not even been convicted.

This clause, the NCCL says, highlights 'the "conviction orientation" approach of the Diplock Commission, which appears to have the full approval of the government'.

Clause Four makes hearsay evidence admissible by allowing written statements to be used as evidence when for certain reasons the witness cannot be present in court.

In their criticisms of the proposals of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, the Bar Council stated recently that such evidence was 'inherently unreliable, capable of being manufactured with ease and that usually it cannot be tested satisfactorily by cross-examination'.

In Clause Five of the Bill, a written admission by a defendant is made admissible in evidence unless the defendant can prove that it was obtained as a result of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment. But how is a man who has already been in jail some time to prove torture? And as the NCCL points out:

"Torture" and "degrading treatment" are extreme forms of the manner in which "confessions" may be elicited. There are many more subtle ways in which statements of guilt may be encouraged which fall far short of "inhuman" treatment. Under this proposal such behaviour by interrogators is encouraged. The offer of inducements [granting of bail, access to family or solicitors] is made acceptable. The use of threats by the police (for example, to bring more serious charges, to intimidate relations) is approved.'

The Bill also opens the way to a rapid stepping-up of the practice of 'planting' evidence of 'terrorist' activities on chosen victims by the army and the police.

Under present English law, it is for the prosecution in illegal possession cases to prove that the possession was with the knowledge of the accused. Clause Six of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill completely switches the burden of proof.

It becomes the job of the defence to prove that an accused person was not aware of being in possession.

Said the Diplock Commission, again assuming guilt before conviction: 'We do not think it is tolerable that the scales should be weighted so heavily in favour of guilty men.'

Of a similar proposal, from the Criminal Law Revision Committee, the Bar Council said:

'The proposal undermines the fundamental principle that the prosecution must prove its case. It has never been argued in English law that the law re possession was "weighted so heavily in favour of guilty men" . . . The main aim of that law was simply to protect the innocent from being wrongly convicted.'

Comments the NCCL: 'Clause Six now offers the grave danger of the conviction of

innocent persons. In future if a gun is discovered in a premises which the accused "was the occupier or which he habitually used", it will be for him to disprove that he was in possession of the gun—a proposition which would be totally intolerable on this side of the Irish Sea in relation to the possession of firearms, drugs or stolen property.'

How long this will be 'intolerable', if the Ulster Bill is passed, remains to be seen.

Clauses Nine and 10 give the Royal Ulster Constabulary powers of arrest, entry into property without warrant and seizure of property in relation to scheduled offences and other offences under the Bill. The powers given do not differ significantly from those at present under the Special Powers Acts.

In relation to arrest, in English law a police officer is supposed to have 'reasonable ground for suspicion' as an objective test of his motives for arrest and a guarantee against wrongful arrest. No such protection is afforded in the Emergency Provisions Bill.

Clause Nine also increases the period from 48 to 72 hours during which a person can be held before being brought before a magistrates' court.

The same clause also gives the police powers to fingerprint an accused person by force if necessary—a provision which if legislated is bound to lead to a big increase in police intimidation and invasion of privacy.

Under Clause 11, the army is given sweeping powers of arrest and detention for up to four hours. And the Bill neither obliges troops to exercise this power on the basis of 'reasonable suspicion' nor to state the reason for arrest.

## RANDOM POWERS

The same applies to clauses 12, 13 and 14, which give both army and police virtually random powers of search over both people and premises.

Under Clause 15 fines of £400 or prison terms of up to six months can be imposed if anyone fails to answer army or police questions 'to the best of his knowledge and ability' about their identity, movements or knowledge of recent 'terrorist' activity.

And so it goes on.

Clause 19 makes a criminal offence the possession of information with respect to the army and police which 'is likely to be useful to terrorists'. This repeats a similar clause in the Special Powers Acts. Its vague phraseology makes almost any item dangerous to carry—for example a series of car numbers or a street map. Moreover, the burden of proof is on the suspect to show possession was legitimate.

Clause 20 gives the army or the police power to disperse any assembly of more than three people. The security forces can do so on the basis of the subjective judgement of an officer or inspector as to the possibility of a breach of the peace.

This is the real face of Toryism—these are its plans against the British as well as the Irish working class.

There can be no reformist solutions to this threat, no pleas such as the advocates of 'civil liberties' make to the liberal conscience of members and agents of the ruling class.

To struggle seriously against the threat posed in the Bill which will be read tonight requires the mobilization of the working class to force the Tory rights-strippers to resign and replace them with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and the repeal of all anti-working class legislation.

Italy's Interior Minister, Mariano Rumor, has declared war on crime, claiming that the country's crime wave is getting out of hand.

His frenzied drive for law and order means turning over thousands of suspects, arresting hundreds of petty criminals and generally involving a display of police zeal not seen for years.

But one section of the criminals is left scot free, completely untouched by Rumor's conversion to the rule of law. These are the bands of fascist thugs who operate with impunity against the left under the noses of the police.

It is these groups, revivals of Mussolini's action squadrons with names like 'New Order' and 'National Vanguard', that are responsible for the mounting political violence in Italy.

It was they who set fire last month to the bookshop and printing house of Samona and Savelli in Rome, who had published a scathing exposure of the fascists in high places.

The fire destroyed 120,000 books and caused some £200,000 damage. Three days before a phoney Post Office van was discovered in Rome with a complete torture chamber in the back.

The mobile prison cell, complete with truncheons, manacles and ether, was being driven by a known fascist who was implicated in the 1969 coup attempt organized by the rightist leader Prince Borghese.

This man was known to have taken part in at least ten fascist assaults, but the police and the magistrates let him go free after only a few minutes in custody.

A year ago similar vans were being used as mobile bases—complete with full street-fighting equipment—by the Roman fascists. They would park outside high schools or cafes frequented by left-wingers without any intervention by the police.

With this sort of attitude by the forces of law and order, their sorties have become more frequent, more audacious and more provocative. In Milan, fascists in a very similar van raped and maltreated the actress Franca Rame.



Mariano Rumor, Interior Minister.

Like the Rome fascists the Milan gang were never caught by the police. Yet there is no lack of evidence to identify and convict them.

In the Law Faculty at Rome University, about 100 fascists, many of whom were not even students, dominated the faculty until a short time ago. Other students belonging to the Communist and Socialist Parties, the Manifesto group and other left organizations collected a detailed dossier on the fascists' activities.

Between December 12, 1972 and March 22, 1973, they documented 12 episodes of fascist violence on the campus: in each case there was evidence which could have led to a conviction. In no case did the police intervene to prevent the fascist attacks.

When the police did arrive, it was only when the aggressors had had time to make themselves scarce. A similar dossier, going back over a much longer period, was presented to the police and the magistrature by the Catholic

# FASCIST VIOLENCE GOES ON WITH IMPUNITY



parents' association, Cogidas.

Their dossier gave names, places, times, vehicle numbers and other details. A delegation accompanied by MPs took the dossier to various ministers—though the Minister of Education refused to receive them!

Some names reappeared in the dossier time after time. The magistrate sent out 50 summonses. But there has been no trial and none of the people named has been brought to justice.

As a result the same thugs turn up day after day outside the high school gates to beat up leftist students. The police still let them attack their victims with impunity, turning up at the scene of the assaults just in time to ask for the victim's papers.

This is the procedure as described by one student at Rome University's law faculty:

'The fascists gather every morning from 10 to 12 at the entrance hall and on the stairs. When there is a check on students' identity cards, the most notorious fascists stay outside, chatting to the police, with many of whom they are on familiar terms and have close ties of sympathy and collaboration.'

The infestation of the colleges and high schools by the black rats of fascism is a refinement of the tactics used by Benito Mussolini in his drive

towards state power following World War I.

He it was who first built the squadrons of thugs who became the blackshirt movement. Backed by Italian big business, they destroyed the workers' movement and established their dictatorship throughout Italy.

Fascism was supposedly defeated in 1945 with Mussolini's death and 'triumph of democracy'. But thanks to the treachery of the Italian Communist Party, which was determined to restore Italian capitalism, come what may, the old faces stayed at their posts.

Now, as police chiefs, magistrates, ministers and industrialists, the old blackshirts still wield the power. They are preparing to settle accounts with their old enemy—the Italian working class.

They look across the Adriatic to Greece, where the colonels in the pay of Central Intelligence Agency have had six years of brutal dictatorship with the working class chained down by repressive laws.

The Italian fascists, drawing strength from the unresolved crisis of leadership in the workers' movement, are scheming to repeat the Greek colonels' 'successes' in Rome, Milan and Turin.

This is the sinister significance of the government's connivance at their brutal crimes.



Fascists on the steps of the Law Faculty at Rome University. Above: Police guard the MSI (fascist) conference in Rome.



# WAR ON RAG TRADE WORKERS

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**The giant Burton clothing group, which has stores on almost every high street in Britain, has announced reorganization plans which could mean the sack for hundreds of workers at its headquarters factory in Leeds.**

Burton's have refused to give exact details of the cut-back. So far they have called only for 350 voluntary redundancies among women over 55 years of age.

However Martin Frankel, managing director of the group's manufacturing division, has admitted to Workers Press that the aim is to reduce the labour force to between 1,000 and 1,500.

The shadow of the dole, therefore, hangs over half the workers now employed in the factory.

At the same time Burton's have begun a big speed-up

programme, and are using a closure threat to drive this forward. Says managing director Frankel: 'The future size of the Hudson Road factory will depend on the success we and our employees are able to make of it.'

Mass meetings have been held in works' time to explain the management's proposals. Union officials have gone along with requests for workers to volunteer for redundancy secretly, so that no one knows what her workmate is doing.

Hudson Road has for years been the centre of the Burton empire, and virtually the centre of the clothing industry.

In 1936, when the struggle to unionize the industry came to a head in the massive Burton's strike, there were 12,000 workers in the factory. A majority of the 15,000 clothing workers who marched through the streets of Leeds that year came from Hudson Road. It was at that period the methods and traditions management are now out to smash were established.

Then there are some veiled threats. 'Something has to be done at Hudson Road', the statement says. 'If we had no concern for people and we were

prepared to be ruthless, the easiest solution would be to close the Hudson Road factory.'

Burton's deny that this is their intention, but insist that if it is to remain open workers must accept that 'the pace of work must be higher and certainly more consistent over the day'.

Then the statement spells out the requirements of the group:

1. Burton's want to 'develop new methods of manufacture and new factory lay-outs', based on the findings of methods engineering and work-study.

2. It plans to bring in new, incentive payment schemes requiring the abolition of clock money and existing piecework prices, the use of work-measurement to establish standard minute values per job, the grading of jobs according to the levels of skill and judgement required and the establishment of rates for standard performance consistent with other factories in the group.

3. Wherever possible, Burton's management want to cut down on the number of part-time staff.

4. Finally, the management statement says: 'We must develop new attitudes and habits with regard to time-keeping, attendance and discipline.'

The majority of the labour force at Hudson Road is skilled. Almost 60 per cent of the women workers are over 45 years of age, and most of them have given the whole of their working lives to the firm.

But the skills of these expert tailoresses are apparently no longer required. In fact the aim of the method-study engineers is to eliminate skill. Their maxim is: 'If a job has skill in it, break it down.'

At the Burton's factory in Doncaster there is a permanent staff of work-study engineers.

These 'engineers' of speed-up lay down certain procedures as standard for the achievement of 100 per cent performance. If any girl finds a faster method to ease the pressure of work for herself, it is immediately seized on by management and incorporated into the standard procedure.

In this way there is a continuous drive to accelerate the pace of work.

At Doncaster there are a few top machinists who sit at their machines all day and produce 120 per cent to 130 per cent performances, but earn no more than 60p an hour for all their effort—that is, £24 before stoppages.

At Hudson Road, the fastest piecework hands working at a similar pace can earn £32. The intention is to introduce production levels at Hudson Road comparable with those at Doncaster, yet the wage levels speak for themselves.

On the cutting side there are even greater dangers.

The firm is planning to install a new die-cutting machine in the Doncaster factory. This machine operates on the same principle as a pastry cutter.

The dies are made in the necessary shapes, fitted into the machine as required and the cutting is done by pressure.

The cloth laying is done automatically and the firm claims a more efficient standard of cloth utilization. The machine can cut a lay of any thickness up to 16 inches.

The one which Burton's are interested in for their Doncaster factory costs £25,000. It can be operated by two girls, with one man to do the heavy lifting.

Between them they could produce in four shifts as much as 18 cutters produce in five shifts at present.

With one machine they could supply the requirements of the trouser rooms of the Doncaster, Goole and Guisborough factories.

If a twilight shift, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. was introduced (and this seems likely) then other factories could be supplied also.

When a die has cut one-and-a-half lays it has 'paid for itself' in savings in labour costs.

These are the kinds of innovation Burton's are talking about when they call for 'new methods of manufacture'.

No doubt there will be problems in adapting them to the 'made to measure' trade, but anyone who visits a Burton's Store can see that this trade is being phased out.

In the long run this means that the trade of tailors cutter will cease to exist.

The recent Burton's statement claims that they want to 'create at Hudson Road a normal clothing factory where the general atmosphere will be purposeful but pleasant'.

The Doncaster factory has the highest level of productivity in the group. Its record of labour turnover over the past three years has been as follows: 1970, 40 per cent; 1971, 28 per cent; 1972, 33 per cent.

In the old-style clothing factory it would have been disastrous to lose so many skilled workers. But when the skill is practically eliminated one worker is just as good as another.

There has already been considerable speed-up in the factory.

But although the pace has increased, many of the traditional methods remain.

The firm has an army of method-study engineers ready to come into the factory and do away with these practices.

'Their aim is to make us all into labourers', said one cutter.

Burton's have been preparing their strategy over several years.

On March 17, 1971, news of the proposed redundancies was published in a local newspaper under the headline: 'Giant clothing firm slashes its work force'. This was immediately denied by the management, who said: 'There are no plans at this time to reduce manufacturing capacity.'

Two years later the full significance of this statement has become clear.

The present moves are part of Burton's long-term preparations for Common Market entry.

These began in 1963 with the acquisition of a French clothing company, the Société Anonyme du Vêtement Approprié. They also included the attempt to merge with the giant UDS Ltd, which was finally prohibited by the Monopolies Commission in 1967.

In the annual report for 1971-1972 Ladislav Rice (joint chairman of the board, salary £23,355) made the following statement:

'It is gratifying, as Britain enters the Common Market, to find the Burton group in the forefront of British com-

panies with a sizeable stake and growing experience in Europe.

In this context the group raised, in September, £6.5m by means of a convertible Eurobond issue, partly to refinance the St. Rémy acquisition and partly to provide funds for further expansion on the continent when suitable opportunities occur.'

To provide the necessary resources for this European expansion, and to prepare for the increased competition which Common Market entry brings, Burton's must continue to increase the rate of exploitation of all their workers.

Profit before tax has gone up from £6,529,000 in 1968 to £8,002,000 in 1972. The inflation in property values has added more than £69m to the value of Burton's fixed assets during the past year. However, according to this year's annual report: 'Much remains to be done before acceptable profitability is established.'

The firm has issued an ultimatum to all its employees at Hudson Road.

'It would be wrong not to recognize that there may well be people who do not feel willing to face an upheaval of the extent necessary; or who feel disinclined to accept the new conditions that would result.'

'It is better for such people to say so at the outset, rather than to participate half-heartedly in the new developments which are to take place.'

## EXPLOITATION

Despite the militancy of the Leeds clothing workers in their 1970 strike, union leaders ended it with no firm commitment on wages and a national agreement which paved the way for speed-up. Now Burton's are moving in to collect on the agreement. Above, a strike leader addresses one of the biggest meetings of the 1970 strike.

The attitude of the union officials to all this has been described by managing director Frankel as 'responsible and fair-minded'. He added: 'We are fortunate in dealing with such reasonable people.'

Their 'reasonableness' was strikingly revealed in 1969, in the national agreement signed between the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers and the Clothing Manufacturers' Federation.

This said of work-study: 'It should be recognized that work-measurement and method-study are essential for establishing the work content and in installing and regulating payment-by-results schemes.'

In 1970, when 30,000 Leeds clothing workers struck for a 1s an hour wage increase, the smashing of this national agreement was a major demand.

But the St. Ivinists of the British Communist Party, in the leadership of the strike committee, refused to lead the struggle on this basis. And they ended up settling the strike without even a definite commitment from the employers on wages.

The lessons of the 1970 strike must be learned if today's new attacks on clothing workers are to be resisted.

# KIM AND HIS WONDERFUL 'WELLIES'

BY TOM KEMP

Lucky readers of 'The Times' were treated on April 11 to an eight-page propaganda splurge all about wonderful 'Chollima Korea'. 'Chollima' appears to be a horse or horseman 'symbolic of the heroic mettle of the Korean people'.

It is proclaimed without hesitation that 'Korea's Socialist System Represents an Ideal Society' and the illustrations depict happy workers and their products in the factory and on the farm.

Korea wallows in a personality cult reminiscent of the Stalin era in the Soviet Union and only approached in Ceausescu's Rumania. President Kim Il Sung, displayed here in pensive isolation and looking across the Heavenly Lake, is the great hero from whom all blessings flow.

Those readers of 'The Times' who missed the opportunity given in a full-page advertisement some time ago to acquire the collected works of the Master are given a brief rundown of his thought. It all stems from what is called 'the great Junche idea'.

This says that 'the masters of the revolution and construction are the masses of the people'. However, it was Kim Il Sung whose revolutionary activity beginning in 1926 'marked the advent of a new epoch in the development of the anti-Japanese national-liberation struggle and the communist movement of the Korean people.'

In fact, the people do not get much of a look in when the recent history of Korea is told. It was 'the ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander Marshall Kim Il Sung' who defeated the foreign imperialist.

It was he who 'set forth the basic line of economic construction' and the 'Junche-oriented line of industrialization'.

'He is not only the great Leader of revolution', we are told, 'but also the benevolent father of the Korean people, possessed of lofty virtues and the popular method and style of work'. He is also described as 'peerless patriot, national hero ever-victorious iron-willed brilliant commander and one of the great leaders of the international communist and working-class movements'.

He is also obviously a modest man, as this official handout shows, and as is proved by the picture of the gigantic statue erected in front of the Museum of the Korean Revolution.

The North Korean's purpose of paying the Thomson Organization a substantial sum in order to produce this propaganda supplement is obscure. We are not invited to visit the earthly paradise or even told whether we can. There are no advertisements for its products, not even this time for the works of Kim Il Sung, which seems to be a major export.

If North Korea is all it says it is, it would be expected that 'The Times' would be the last place in which it would be necessary to proclaim it and the last place in which to recruit supporters or win sympathy.

Perhaps Kim Il Sung wants to follow in the footsteps of the Soviet and Chinese bureau-



cracy and make a deal with the imperialists.

If that is so, the copy attached to this particular public relations job would seem to be pretty inept. The best advice to 'the saviour of the Korean people' would seem to be—get a better advertising agency.

## 'THE PERSONAL INITIATIVE OF KIM IL SUNG'

The eight-page North Korean supplement which appeared in 'The Times' on April 11 (commented on yesterday) was followed by another the next day. For all we know, top people may be getting regular handouts from president Kim Il Sung in future.

The second instalment was well up to the standard of the first and there was no flagging in the insistence that all good things in Korea flowed from 'the personal initiative of Kim Il Sung'.

It spoke of 'native-cadres trained under the profound care of Kim Il Sung' at the Kim Il Sung University. Ten-year compulsory schooling is

being introduced 'according to the far-reaching plan of President Kim Il Sung'.

Turning the page we find that 'Due to the great care shown by President Kim Il Sung to promote the people's health, public health has made great progress'. The liberation of Korean women is attributed to—'the respected and beloved leader President Kim Il Sung'.

One woman textile worker recounts how 'she has become Labour Heroine in the benevolent bosom of President Kim Il Sung'. We are shown the schools in which children learn 'the glorious history of the revolutionary struggle of Marshall Kim Il Sung, who has brought them the happy life of today'.

To the same glorious leader belongs the revival of Korean art and literature exemplified by the 'Song of General Kim Il Sung' with which the Mansudae Art Troupe begins every performance at home or abroad.

Physical culture and sport pay their tribute to 'the wise leadership of their great leader [guess who?]'.

If he didn't actually invent sport, it was he who 'indicated the unique way for dynamically promoting physical culture through a mass movement and for developing its theory and techniques from the standpoint of Juche'.

This second supplement which, like the first, must have cost thousands of pounds, contains an appeal for the reunification of Korea on the three principles put forward by President Kim Il Sung.

The people of South Korea must be waiting with joyful



The caption in 'The Times' advertisement read, 'Marshal Kim Il Sung dearly loves children. He even pays deep attention to their footwear.' Above: President Kim with working women.

anticipation for the day when they too can enjoy the benevolent and paternal care of the 'sun of the nation', Kim Il Sung, in a country where everything is ideal.

Even the nursery schools have a special 'room for learning from Kim Il Sung' designed to educate the children to model after his own childhood.

Who would hesitate to join a state ruled by such a solicitous leader who, as a photo caption informs us, dearly loves children and 'even pays deep attention to their footwear'.

There are few states in the world which can boast a leader who ordered that first priority should be given to the production of injection-moulded boots for children in vinyl chloride, or who would even know that these terms disguise the familiar 'Wellies'.

It is still puzzling to know why the full effort to make the virtues of Kim Il Sung more widely known should be concentrated on readers of 'The Times', whose first reaction no doubt will be to deposit the unsolicited centre spread in the nearest waste-paper basket.





Left: The shootings at India House, London. Police crouch against a wall while inside members of the SPG shoot down two Pakistani youth.

forced on the police by 'the international situation' — to cease.

Their targets for the future cannot be spelled out by their own men. But with the crisis assuming present proportions it will be the working class next in line.

The preoccupation with law and order and its exploitation by the television companies ('Z Cars', 'Barlow', 'Special Branch' and the rest) is an integral part of the Tory government's moves towards a corporate state and dictatorship—a calculated ploy in the current climate of economic and political crisis to sustain the middle class in their political confusion and personal anxiety.

Threatened on their most vulnerable fronts — property and morals—they scurry into the channels which they have been trained to inhabit, as potential agents for the right wing.

There is an impressive array of cops on the scene today: all developed and highly gifted in interpreting the meanest and most ambiguous letter of the law to their own ends, or rather those of the state. Programmes on television like these and others are designed as first-class advertising for the state and its developing 'arms'.

To sow seeds of uncertainty at all costs, amongst not only the ranks of the Mafia new and old, but in any man, who like the entire body of the working class in industry, civil service, health service and the like, is forced to enter the realms of criminal activity in order to demand a decent standard of living.

The police are the living emblem of the true inner life of the state: the true intent behind all the pretence of democracy which persists in language and promoted philosophy. They are the bedrock of the society which is steadily taking shape in the hands of this ruling class, with its back to the wall and its inevitable need to smash the working class.

The police force, throughout history (in Italy and France in the 1920s, in the 1917 Russian Revolution itself) has, unlike the armed forces, rarely if ever, deviated from the role for which it has been trained.

There are no grounds for supposing that matters will be any different in the coming period in England. But the subtle and complex training, the new divisions and their unlimited powers within the force today ultimately reflect the fact of real fear at its base: fear of the potential and existing strength of the working class which is on a scale so formidable that the most diverse powers and 'talents' are required within the police force to cope with it.

## SOWING SEEDS OF UNCERTAINTY

BY ANNE BLAKEMAN

'Crime Squad' (Documentary) ATV. Tuesday April 10. 'Special Branch'. Episode 1. Wednesday April 11. 'This Week'. Thames TV. Thursday April 12.

A Birmingham member of the force leans back with satisfaction, gives a cheery grin: 'Well', he says 'we've put away 20 top villains this year — right bastards.'

And so, adds the commentary, the Crime Squad relax and celebrate. Drinking and chatting they reminisce over the villains they despise, those they trust and those they admire: since 1963 this élite in the police force has been functioning and drawing men in from the ordinary police force.

Men consider it an honour to be engaged in work where the bureaucratic methods are cut to a minimum, the paperwork disappears and time is given to the really purposeful pursuit of 'the better class of villain'.

Tuesday's programme did a great PR job for the cops who hobnob with that strata of the Mafia and other villains who really count in what was made to appear to be the new glamorous aristocracy in the force.

This sham attempt at digging below the surface to give an inside account of the day-to-day lives of the Crime Squad with its taxing activities (anything from eight to 100 hours a week, chats with the wife to indicate there was no going home for these dedicated men); the filming and the dialogue, the intimate scenes between the police and their informers, the cosy chats on bribery and corruption, the high-powered look cultivated to a special level to impress by the team from ATV, all added up to stamp quite firmly on the mind of the public that law and order today is Big Business.

Not only big business but big propaganda too: the police do well in television today. 'Special Branch', starting up again on Wednesday night, gave an equally fast-moving,

slick picture of George Sewell as the tough, single-minded Detective Chief Inspector with the fashionable black girl friend, a French ex-wife, a working-class background.

All very smooth, elegant dialogue and the conflict of the young man on the make (Patrick Mower at his best), working with Sewell on a job to track down a villain who was busy in the gold bullion line. Topical stuff. Plenty of fast cars and racy chat, smart camerawork to match.

The police shown as increasingly aristocratic. A real role to play in society. Hitting the high spots.

There are many faces to the police force today.

But the gaunt visage of reality best revealed itself in 'This Week's' edition devoted to the Special Patrol Groups. Formed in 1965, this body of 204 men, specially trained, was given an attempted probe by director Peter Tiffin and came up blandly asserting innocence on all fronts.

'We are not armed for ourselves—but to protect the public' . . . 'we are forced into

this situation by the climate and the international situation' . . . 'No, none of us like being armed.'

They are all unhappily forced to stand by their orders and appreciate that six (so we are told) men every day in the London area are toting .38 Webleys with 12 rounds of ammunition to be used on the most stringent criteria.

Their real role is starkly revealed at the sight of the rigorous firearms training to which they are subjected: out on the field. These nice chaps who naturally feel no inclination for the task, are busy riddling dummy bodies with bullets—aiming, of course 'for the widest part of the body—which happens to be the chest'.

Many were upset by the shooting of the two Pakistanis at India House. Nonetheless, when pressed, a good member of the SPG will never fail to stand by his orders.

And when pressed their chief, 'acting on decisions taken at the highest level' cannot bring himself to suppose when the time will come for this unhappy state of affairs—

out to contain some nails and was postmarked Bedfordshire. Our man in Oldham comments sourly: 'Strange how this "bomb" scare just happens to occur when the hospital workers in the area are struggling for a decent wage.'

### JAILED

The Tories are crying out for tougher jail sentences. Perhaps they could follow the practices of their colleagues in Texas.

Two brothers, Franklin and Woodrow Ransoneete, both in their thirties have just been convicted of kidnapping the daughter-in-law of the publisher of the 'Dallas Morning News'. They have been sentenced to 5,500 years' jail.

### A FAIR COP?

Soccer fan James Burke was arrested for 'rowdyism' at a football match. Police claimed that 18-year-old James was 'bawling, shouting and screaming' during a Scottish cup

semi-final between Celtic and Dundee at Glasgow's Hampden Park ground.

He spent a weekend in the cells and was hauled before the Glasgow Sheriff Court last Monday.

Sheriff Peter McNeill was all set to hear the case. James was in the dock and the police had their evidence ready, when solicitor Mr William McGlynn had a whispered conversation with court officials.

Then James was hurriedly taken back to the cells and later released. A court spokesman said: 'Further inquiries are necessary at this stage.'

Mr McGlynn said: 'The police are being asked for a further report.'

Mrs Jessie Burke said: 'His father and I were astonished when the police told us James had been arrested for shouting, bawling and screaming.'

For James Burke has been deaf since birth and has never been able to speak a word.

## WORKERS NOTEBOOK

### "BOMB"

Perhaps our Oldham correspondent has a suspicious mind, but he has sent us a very intriguing item.

It's the front page of the 'Oldham Evening Chronicle' for April 5.

There is a glaring headline which says: 'Bomb scare at local hospital: Mothers, babies evacuated.' The breathless report tells us that 60 mothers and expectant mothers were evacuated after a telephone call that a bomb had been planted in the maternity wing. An army bomb disposal squad turned out for the occasion.

They found a mysterious parcel in a private wing and blew it up. The box turned

## BOOKS BY TROTSKY

Where is Britain Going? Paperback 37½p

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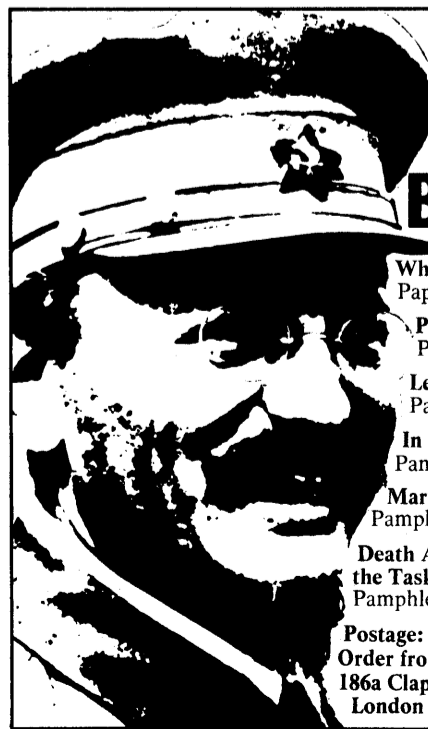
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### All Trades Unions Alliance meetings

**TOTTENHAM:** Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. 'Bricklayers Arms', High Road, near White Hart Lane. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

**TOOTING:** Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. Tooting Baths, Tooting Broadway, S.W.17. 'The crisis of capitalism'.

**CRAWLEY:** Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. AEU Hall, Robinson Road. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

**ACTON:** Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. 'Six Bells', High Street, W.3. 'Make Scanlon retract'.

**PADDINGTON:** Tuesday April 17, 8 p.m. 'Prince of Wales', corner of Harrow Road and Western Road. 'Make Scanlon withdraw his proposals. No collaboration with the Tories'.

**WOOLWICH:** Wednesday April 18, 8 p.m. 'Castle', Powis Street, E.18. 'No collaboration with the Pay Board'.

**WALTHAMSTOW:** Wednesday April 18, 8 p.m. 'The Bell', Hoe Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike'.

**FULHAM:** Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'The Swan', Fulham Broadway, S.W.6. 'No collaboration with the Pay Board'.

**LEEDS:** Thursday, April 19, 8 p.m. Cobourg Tavern, Woodhouse Lane. Speakers from hospital workers and clothing industry.

**MIDDLETON:** Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'Asheton Arms', near the Middleton Gardens.

**FELTHAM:** Thursday April 19, 8 p.m. 'Three Horse Shoes', High Street. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

**SLOUGH:** Wednesday April 25, 8 p.m. Community Centre, Farnham Road. 'TUC must call a General Strike to make the Tories resign'.

**CROYDON:** Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Ruskin House, Coombe Road. 'Marxism and the trade unions'.

**WILLESDEN:** Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Brent Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road, N.W.10. 'Build Councils of Action'.

**HOLLOWAY:** Thursday April 26, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road. 'The economic crisis and the rising cost of living'.

**BARKING:** Sunday April 29, 7.30 p.m. Abbey Hall, Axe Street (behind Town Hall). 'Make Scanlon withdraw his proposals. No collaboration with the Industrial Relations Act'.

### TODAY'S TV

#### BBC 1

10.00 Magic roundabout. 10.05 Banana splits. 10.35 Starsport. 10.50-11.00 Captain Pugwash. 12.30 Croeso 'n ol. 12.55 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.30 Fingerbobs. 1.45 Ask the family. 2.05 When Gods lived in the lakes. 2.45 Animal design. 3.10 Gardeners' world. 3.35 Governor and J.J. 4.00 Huckleberry hound. 4.10 Play school. 4.35 Jackanory. 4.50 Animal magic. 5.15 Muppet musicians of Bremen. 5.40 Sir Prancelot. 5.45 News. Weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE.

6.45 FILM: 'The Sands of Iwo Jima'. John Wayne.

8.30 LIVER BIRDS. 9.00 NEWS. Weather.

9.25 DOCUMENTARY: 'The Right of Silence'. Are too many guilty people going free? What are the proposals of the Criminal Law Revision Committee and why is the legal profession so concerned?

10.15 FILM 73. 10.45 MIDWEEK.

11.30 NEWS. 11.35 MEDITATION. 11.55 Weather.

#### ITV

9.30 Out of school. 11.15 Galloping gourmet. 11.40 Cartoon. 12.05 Rainbow. 12.25 Hatty town. 12.40 First report. 1.00 Lunchtime with Wogan.

1.30 Emmerdale farm. 2.00 Harriet's back in town. 2.30 Good afternoon.

3.00 About Britain. 3.25 Kate. 4.25 Junior showtime. 4.50 Magpie. 5.20 I dream of Jeannie. 5.50 News.

6.00 TODAY. 6.40 CROSSROADS.

7.05 IT'S TARBUCK. Guest Buddy Greco.

7.35 FILM.

9.00 PLAYHOUSE: 'A Friend Indeed'. With David Tomlinson, Dawn Addams, Richard Vernon, June Whitfield.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN.

10.30 DOCUMENTARY: 'Double Sentence'. What happens to a young family when the husband is sent to prison.

11.15 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. 12.00 Epilogue.

#### REGIONAL TV

**CHANNEL:** 1.15 News. 1.30 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.20 Lottery. 4.25 London. 5.20 Partridge family. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.10 Lookaround. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Curtain raiser. 7.35 McCloud. 9.00 London. 12.00 News, weather.

**WESTWARD:** As Channel except: 9.30 London. 11.10 Happiness business. 11.35 Dr Simon Locke. 12.05 London. 12.20 Gus Honeybun. 12.40 London. 12.57 News. 1.00 London. 6.00 Diary. 11.57 News. 12.00 Faith for life.

**SOUTHERN:** 9.30 London. 11.10 Yoga. 11.35 A pretty good arrangement. 12.00 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.45 Tarbuck. 7.15 Hec Ramsey. 9.00 London. 12.00 News. 12.10 Weather. Guideline.

**HARLECH:** 9.30 London. 11.10 North country. 11.35 Flight. 12.05 London. 2.30 Houseparty. 3.00 London. 5.20 Chuckleheads. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.02 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Try for ten. 7.05 London. 7.35 Banacek. 9.00 London. 12.00 Craftsmen. 12.30 Weather.

**HTV Cymru/Wales** as above except: 4.25 Miri mawr. 4.35-4.50 Cantamil. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. 10.30-11.15 Corau meibion. 12.00-12.30 World in action.

**HTV West** as above except: 6.18-6.35 Report West.

**ANGLIA:** 9.30 London. 11.10 Gourmet. 11.35 Joe 90. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 4.22 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Smith family. 5.50 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.00 Reading.

**ATV MIDLANDS:** 9.30 London. 11.10 Film: 'The Hideout'. 12.00 Programme guide. 12.05 London. 2.30 Women. 3.00 London. 5.20 Osmonds. 5.50 London. 6.00 Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 McMillan and wife. 9.00 London. 12.00 Ian Phelps reports. Weather.

**ULSTER:** 9.30 London. 11.35 Country girl. 12.05 London. 1.30 News. 1.32 Yoga. 2.00 London. 2.30 Cartoon. 2.40 Romper room. 3.00 London. 4.23 News. 4.25 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 6.00 UTV reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Banacek. 8.50 Cartoon. 9.00 London. 12.00 Tuesday in Holy Week.

**YORKSHIRE:** 9.30 London. 11.10 Cartoon. 11.20 Beatrix Potter. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 2.30 Farmhouse kitchen. 3.00 London. 5.20 Here's Lucy. 5.50 London. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Cool Million. 9.00 London. 12.00 Weather.

**GRANADA:** 9.30 London. 11.05 Tarzan. 11.50 Hammy Hamster. 12.05 London. 2.30 Collecting on a shoe-string. 3.00 London. 5.15 Nature's window. 5.20 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Newsday. Police file. 6.40 Film: 'The Streets of San Francisco'. 8.30 Tarbuck. 9.00 London.

**SCOTTISH:** 9.30 London. 11.10 North country. 11.35 Flight. 12.05 London. 2.30 Dateline. 3.00 London. 5.20 Cartoon. 5.25 Crossroads. 5.50 London. 6.00 Scotland today. 6.35 Protectors. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Columbo. 9.00 London. 12.00 Late call. 12.05 STUC.

**GRAMPIAN:** 9.30 London. 11.40 Jackson five. 12.04 News. 12.05 London. 12.25 Hammy Hamster. 12.40 London. 1.30 Dr Simon Locke. 2.00 London. 2.30 Women today. 3.00 London. 5.20 Emmerdale farm. 5.50 London. 6.00 News. 6.05 STUC 73. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Tarbuck. 7.30 Cartoon. 7.35 Cool million. 9.00 London. 11.55 Meditation.

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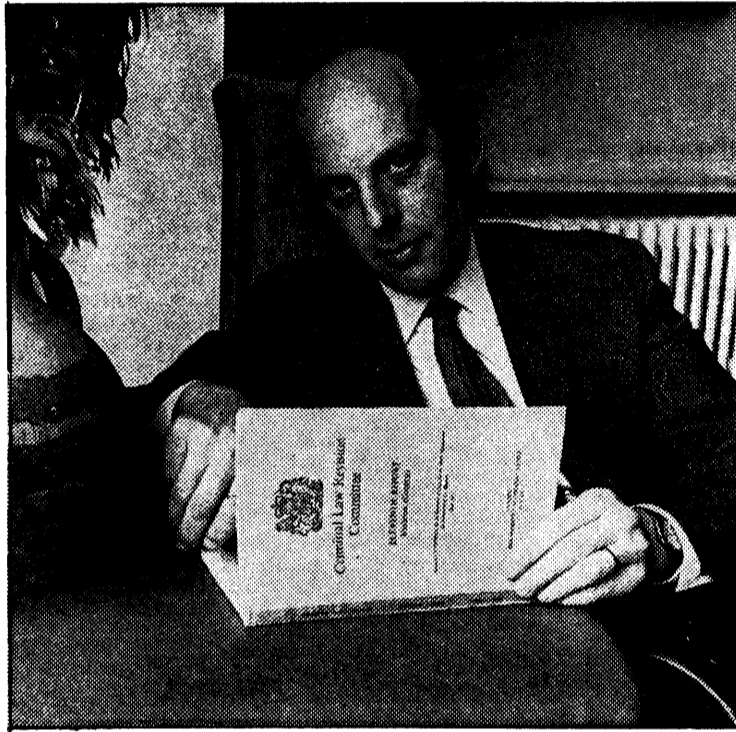
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'The Guardian's' legal correspondent Michael Zander looks at the dangers to basic rights in the courts now under attack from the Criminal Law Revision Committee's recommendations in BBC 1's documentary 'The Right of Silence'.

#### BBC 2

11.00-11.25 Play school. 5.25 Open University.

6.40 INTERACTION.

7.05 OPEN UNIVERSITY.

7.30 NEWS. Weather. 7.35 WHEEL-BASE.

8.10 A THORN IN THE FLESH. Cobbett's Rural Rides with

Donald Bisset as William Cobbett.

9.00 POT BLACK. BBC 2 snooker competition. Eddie Charlton v Ray Reardon.

9.25 PLAY: 'A Thinking Man as Hero'. By Hugh Whitmore. With Keith Barron, Mary Miller, Peter Bowles, Ann Lynn, Mervyn Johns.

10.45 THE OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST. Fairport Convention, Tom Paxton.

11.15 NEWS EXTRA. Weather.

## Varsity technicians put new demands

TECHNICIANS at Leeds University and at further education colleges in the city are threatening all-out strike action if the education

authority refuses to meet their demands on grading and holiday pay.

The 180 workshop and laboratory technicians—members of the local government association, NALGO—called off a week-long overtime ban on April 9 after being granted payment on overtime which they had previously been forced to work for nothing.

They are now threatening a one-week, all-out strike followed immediately by indefinite strike action in support of a further series of demands:

- Restructuring of the grades of all Leeds Polytechnic and further education college technicians to bring them in line with other polytechnics and colleges of further education.
- Representation on governing bodies.
- An additional five days' holiday after five years' service.
- All overtime to be paid at time-and-a-half; double time on Saturdays and Sundays.
- More consideration to payment of overtime (evenings) at part-time teacher rates.

At a mass meeting last month, technicians, angered and frustrated by union procedures and by their employers' blatantly delaying tactics (some technicians have waited four years for re-grading), decided to ballot members to support their claim with industrial action.

## Shortage of components at CAV's Acton plant

JOSEPH LUCAS'S entire CAV site at Acton, west London, is threatened by a shutdown due to a shortage of components.

A ban on all sub-contract work has been imposed by the joint shop stewards' committee who are attempting to force the management to concede the right of workers to take staggered holidays.

Meanwhile superintendents, foremen and assistant foremen

are refusing to attend joint production consultative committee meetings with shop stewards as part of their campaign to encourage higher management to get tough with the union organizations.

They are also disturbed at piecemeal settlements recently agreed which, they claim, make them look foolish because stewards have been able to go over their heads and get higher prices.

## GEC toolroom fights on

TOOLMAKERS at GEC Coventry voted to continue their pay strike at the weekend. They will not meet again until April 27.

The 211 workers are demanding £2.88 pay rise and strike committee chairman Douglas Soeller said: 'We are confident of the justification for our claim.'

But the stewards say they will talk to representatives of the

Tory Pay Board if a meeting can be arranged.

The AUEW, which has called for a one-day strike of engineers on May 1 against the pay laws, has made the strike official. Talks with Pay Board officials, therefore, would be against union policy.

Attempts are being made to convene a meeting of all Coventry toolmakers to consider support for the GEC men.

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# Farm price haggle means dearer food



Minister Godber

DESPITE the Tory Press build up of Agriculture Minister Mr Joseph Godber as a man going to Luxembourg today to do battle on behalf of the consumer, the Cabinet knows it has no choice but to accept the higher farm prices demanded by other EEC members.

Whatever is decided at the three days of talks will mean higher food prices for working-class housewives.

The French and the Germans have let it be known in advance that unless the Tories agree, even Britain's ability to be a member of the Market would be thrown into doubt.

The very core of EEC

farm policy lies in keeping farm prices high through subsidies, intervention buying and massive stockpiling of 'surpluses'.

Britain's farmers are poised for a European bonanza as the new system begins to affect them. Many have restocked and bought new machinery in anticipation.

## Beef rise

Among other things the French are demanding a 30-per-cent rise in beef prices over two years because beef is in short supply as a result of EEC trading restrictions.

Significantly Godber has already conceded — influenced by opinion among British and Irish farmers — that this is a product where

some increase makes sense.

The EEC Commission has recommended a 10.8-per-cent rise in the price of pork — figures which are likely to prove more generally acceptable than the unilateral French demand.

When talks open today the struggle will be for individual countries to get the best possible deal for the products their particular farmers produce.

For instance the Germans would like cereal prices pushed up, but the British object.

Out of this national haggling a new, comprehensive, mutually-agreed range of farm prices will emerge.

Some prices will rise less than others, but this can hardly be portrayed as a great Tory victory against inflation.

At last week's talks, it looked as if the kind of package to emerge would be around 2 per cent on cereal prices, up to 4 per cent on milk and 9 per cent on beef.

However it is disguised, such a package will mean that food prices must further sky-rocket.

## Steel price

As a result of pressure from Market steel-makers, whose prices are up to 15 per cent higher than their British counterparts, a statement is expected this week announcing steel prices of up to 9 per cent.

This will affect all steel-using industries and could raise the price of many consumer durables ranging from washing machines to cars.

# Vauxhall unions examine Phase Two reactions

BY DAVID MAUDE

UNION LEADERS representing the 27,000 Vauxhall carworkers meet tomorrow to consider their members' reaction to the company's Phase Two pay offer of £2.40 plus increases in fringe benefits.

The meeting, scheduled to take place at Rugely, Staffordshire, will hear reports of factory, department and individual union meetings following last Tuesday's meeting with the company.

Much will be made of Sunday's vote by engineers' union members at Ellesmere Port to accept the company's offer, since these are normally considered the most militant men in the combine.

But although union chiefs will attempt to wash their hands of the 'substantial' Vauxhall claim on this basis, they cannot escape responsibility for any acceptance of Phase Two.

Their formal rejection of the company's offer last Tuesday was accompanied by a continued failure to plan any campaign or action whatsoever in support of the claim.

This has been their stance ever since the claim, which was for a 35-hour week as well as a pay rise, was submitted.

While 'do nothing' was their policy at Vauxhall's, the pay struggle by 52,000 Ford workers, to whom the Vauxhall factories traditionally look for a lead, was being systematically cut down by leaders of these same unions—and by their 'left' and Communist Party hangers-on.

## DANGER

Now the danger is that these men will use the Vauxhall situation in a bid to further undermine the still-struggling Ford workers.

At Ellesmere Port yesterday engine production resumed following the return to work of 300 men who walked out last Friday.

The stoppage, over a transfer-of-labour dispute, led to 2,500 shift assembly workers being laid off.

A company spokesman said it was hoped to have sufficient engines produced during the day to start car assembly after last night's shift.

The company lost production of more than 400 cars as a result of the dispute.

LIVERPOOL docks resumed work yesterday, after nearly 5,000 dockers halted work on 30 ships.

Shop stewards told a mass meeting on Sunday that agreement had been reached with the employers over the allocation of work to clerical staff and registered dockers which sparked off the dispute last Monday.

## Rubery Owen workers

### now make £5 claim

RUBERY OWEN workers in Darlaston, Staffs, who voted last Friday to continue their two-week-old strike against Measured-Day Work, are also now insisting that future negotiations must be on the original £5-a-week wage claim.

They are against any negotiations on the reduced claim of £2.52, which was put forward to comply with the Tory government's £1 plus 4 per cent state pay law.

About 1,500 workers at the mass meeting heard shop stewards' secretary Harold Smith say:

'We came out on a principle of the right to have free negotiations on wages and conditions. After your decision today, they will do everything to break our unity. Any weakening now will destroy the organization it's taken 20 years to build.'

Doug Peech, T&GWU convenor at Rubery Owen's told Workers Press: 'I'm out on strike because



the management said "From April 2 you are having that (new wages structure)" and I don't believe in dictatorship. I know we are fighting the government because the employer is using the words of the White Paper.

'We are not just one factory. Our strength lies in the fact that we can stop the entire motor industry. This factory is a key factory.'

Pickets on the Owen Street gate told Workers Press that they were not interested in restructuring of wages.

One picket said: 'We want a wage increase out of Rubery Owen's pocket, and not out of our workmates' pockets, because Rubery Owen's proposals mean wage-cuts for the pieceworkers.'

The effects of the strike must soon go beyond the lay-offs at Rover, Jaguar and Massey Ferguson. British-Leyland, Ford, Chrysler, Roll-Royce Motors and Bristol Commercial Vehicles are also likely to be affected.

## Marks and Spencer record

MARKS and Spencer, the clothing to foods store group, has just announced a 30-per-cent rise in profits. Pre-tax profits for the year to the end of March jumped by more than £16m to a record £70,036,000.

Shareholders will collect a final

dividend of 21 9/16 per cent gross, making a total equivalent of 32 13/16 per cent, as against the previous year's total of 31 1/4 per cent.

On Stock Markets, the record results bumped up Marks and Spencers shares by 3p to 268p.

CANVEY Islanders demonstrating against a proposed oil refinery again blocked a major road into the town at the weekend.

About 100 protesters used cars to try to prevent oil tankers entering or leaving a storage depot on the island. Later about 300 marched through the town centre.

● Watch out for a special feature on our centre pages on the Canvey Island battle.

**SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE MEETINGS**  
Make Scanlon retract!  
No collaboration with the Industrial Relations Act!  
No acceptance of Phase Two!  
Force the Tories to resign!  
Build the revolutionary party!

**South London**  
TUESDAY APRIL 24,  
8 p.m.  
Clapham Manor Baths,  
Clapham Manor Street,  
SW4

**North London**  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 25  
8 p.m.  
Woodlands Hall,  
Crown Street,  
Acton, W.3.

**Liverpool**  
Transform the SLL into the revolutionary party  
MONDAY APRIL 23,  
7.30 p.m.  
'The Mona', James St  
(Entrance at back in Moor St)

## SLL LECTURE SERIES

The revolutionary party and the history of the British working class

### Merthyr Tydfil

Caedraw School  
Merthyr Tydfil  
7.30 p.m.

Wednesday April 18  
(Note date change)  
Lectures given by Peter Jeffries

The Unions and the working class in Britain.

The Revolutionary Past of the British working class—and its future.

The Transformation of the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

## READING

Trotsky, Where is Britain Going? Problems of the British Revolution.

Perspectives for Transforming the SLL into a Revolutionary Party.

Marxist Analysis of the Crisis.

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# Demand asylum for Cheng



Mrs Cecilia Cheng who has been waiting for the Lords decision, while her husband is held in Pentonville jail.

TZU TSAI-CHENG, the Taiwanese separatist, has lost his appeal against extradition to the United States where he faces a possible jail sentence for an alleged assassination attempt on the son of Chiang Kai-shek, the premier of Taiwan.

The House of Lords ruled that his alleged crime was not political and therefore Cheng had no rights protecting him from extradition.

But his supporters yesterday said they were encouraged by the narrowness of the majority and the dissenting opinion of Lord Simon, who said that to the man in the street Cheng's crime was clearly political.

The fate of Cheng now

BY JOHN SPENCER

rests with Tory Home Secretary Robert Carr.

He can ship Cheng to the United States, where his comrades say he runs the risk of being kidnapped by agents of the Taiwanese regime, or he could be deported to any country that would allow him political asylum.

Neil Kinnock, Labour MP for Bedwelly, is to lead an all-party delegation to plead with Carr not to send Cheng to the US.

Mr Benedict Birnberg Cheng's solicitor, said that he was pleased with the Lords decision because it was narrow.

He said the verdict by Lord Simon was most important and would lend weight to the delegation to the Home Secretary.

Cheng is at present recovering in Pentonville jail from a suicide attempt.

The alleged crime took place in New York in April 1970 when a pistol was drawn and fired at Chiang Ching-kuo, the son of the old anti-communist leader of nationalist China.

Cheng was arrested for allegedly being concerned with acquiring the weapon.

The British trade union and labour movement must demand that Cheng be given asylum in Britain. See Thursday's centre pages for a full background story to the Cheng case.

**£1,750 APRIL APPEAL FUND NOW STANDS AT £374.89**

WE ARE beginning to be concerned. Our campaign for April's Fund is very slow and if we continue at this pace we will not make our total this month.

We realize that this month will be hard as we have two funds underway. But we must not allow our monthly Fund to become neglected.

Your support, which is so welcome each month, is also vitally needed to maintain Workers Press. As our costs are constantly increasing, we must not let our Fund slip back.

Therefore we make a very special appeal to you all, dear readers. Help us raise extra amounts to boost our April Fund. We only have 14 days left to complete our £1,750 target. So go into action immediately. Post every donation straight away to:

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## Hospitals still out

DESPITE the capitulation by their leaders, hospital workers were still on strike throughout Britain yesterday, although the back-to-work call created inevitable confusion in their ranks.

Thousands of hospital workers stayed out in the north east (Newcastle, Prudhoe, North Tees, West Cumberland, Northumberland); Liverpool; South Wales (Merthyr, Aberdare, Pontypridd); Manchester; Oldham; and other centres.

The main hospital workers union, NUPE, with a total of 440,000 members in public services, is to fully participate in the May 1 day of protest and stoppage organized by the TUC against the Tory pay laws.

NUPE said shop stewards at the Wessex Regional Hospital Board had decided to continue industrial action through non-cooperation and a ban on private patients.

They were taking a list of demands to the regional hospital board and hospital management committees.

They wanted union observers to attend meetings of the board and management committees; regular meetings between stewards' committees and the regional board and 'a full investigation into the activity of management in North Hampshire during the strike when they brought in volunteers without union consultation'.

THE PAY dispute at Harland and Wolff's Belfast shipyard, which has begun to affect production after ten weeks non-cooperation by 2,000 boilermakers, now awaits a mass meeting to decide the next steps.

Union advice to return to normal working has been rejected by shop stewards. The company has paid off 700 steelworkers and threatens hundreds more imminently. The men want more pay than the Phase Two ceiling.

## Police pack remand hearing: Public and Press searched

# Dawn raid victims heavily guarded in court

COVENTRY magistrates sat under heavy police guard yesterday as they remanded in custody six men arrested during joint Special Branch-Special Patrol Group raids in the early hours of Friday morning.

Yesterday's carefully-orchestrated police operation began more than an hour before the court was due to sit in St Mary's Hall, Coventry.

Police sealed off the street as the men—themselves surrounded by guards—were driven the 250 yards from the police station to the court.

Then, all handcuffed and three with their heads covered, the men were hustled into the cells below the court.

All entrances except one were locked. Reporters and other members of the public were searched, some of them three times, for possible weapons.

The court room, too, was packed with police as the six were charged with conspiring together and with others un-

known to cause an explosion in the United Kingdom 'of a nature likely to endanger life or cause serious injury to property'.

The alleged conspiracy is supposed to have taken place between January 1 and April 13 this year. Police objected to bail and the men were remanded in custody until April 25.

Yesterday's police operation was entirely in line with the atmosphere surrounding Friday

morning's raids, following which Fleet Street editors received instructions to 'play the story as anti-IRA'.

These raids were countrywide, though co-ordinated from London. Some 111 homes were raided by 500 police and 14 people, most of them Irish, arrested.

But among the homes raided in Coventry were those of members of the International Marxist Group, from which police removed conference papers and address lists.

Over the weekend one man was remanded in Manchester charged with unlawful possession of a 0.38 revolver and 12 rounds of ammunition, two men were charged in Liverpool under the Official Secrets Act and a fourth, also in Liverpool, was remanded in custody accused of stealing postal orders.

Yesterday's court hearing in Coventry lasted just 20 minutes.

The remanded men were: Father Patrick Fell (32), of All Soul's Church; Anthony Lynch (36), a fitter; Anthony McCormick (17), engineer; Thomas Rush (26), electrician; Herbert Kelly (28), builder's labourer; and Francis Stagg (31), driver.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Fell was unshaven and in clerical dress when he and the others appeared in court, all still handcuffed to police officers. They spoke only once each, to confirm their ages.

Det Insp Colin Such, who asked for the remand, gave evidence of arrest.

The magistrates refused bail applications by defence solicitors William Wilson MP and Michael Jervis.

After the hearing, a 200-strong crowd gathered outside the court building and there were chants of 'Solidarity with the IRA' and 'Free all political prisoners'.

There was cheering as the six were driven away in a convoy of police vans and cars.



Strikers at Lankesters' garage in Kingston-on-Thames yesterday continued their two-week strike for union recognition in talks on a new pay structure. Pickets at the garage, which is the main British-Leyland dealer in the area, were sceptical of a 'new' offer from the company. This was that if they returned to work discussions on new rates for apprentices would be brought forward from June. Separate negotiations on storemen's rates were also offered. Apprentices at the garage are paid an average of 42p an hour.

## Engineers back steel jobs fight

THE ENGINEERS' union unanimously agreed to 'organize the fullest possible support to all unions resisting closures' in the steel industry when its national committee discussed British Steel Corporation's plans to make 50,000 men redundant.

Speakers deplored the effect of closures at Ebbw Vale and Shotton in Wales which would mean 'going back to the 1930s'.

But AUEW leader John Boyd confused the issue by saying:

'In every country, a degree of modernization is necessary and inevitable', meaning that he is prepared to discuss some redundancies.

## Edinburgh Council of Action move

EDINBURGH general branch of the white-collar union ASTMS has initiated a campaign to gain support in the area for the formation of a Council of Action.

In a resolution due to come before the Edinburgh and district Trades Council tonight, the branch says:

'...in view of the rapidly developing economic and political crisis which is currently engulfing the world capitalist system, there is now an urgent

need to build and develop new forms of organization within the working class movement, in order to defend the basic democratic rights of the working class.

'This aim can best be achieved by the formation of Councils of Action throughout the country, whose central purpose will be to unite all organizations and tendencies based on the working class, in the common struggle to defeat the Tory government.'

The motion calls on the Edinburgh Trades Council to initiate the formation of a Coun-

cil of Action by organizing a special meeting for this purpose as soon as possible.

In line with this call, the ASTMS branch secretary, Mr A. A. Wilson, has informed other union branches of the call and asked for their support.

Material explaining the importance of the campaign has also been distributed.

Two local Labour Parties and a number of trade union branches in the area have already indicated their support.